

# Upcoming Public Meetings

The first series of public meetings will be held on the dates listed below. Each meeting will take place from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. and will include a presentation at 6:30 p.m. The same information will be presented at each session. Please feel free to attend whichever is most convenient to you.

Wednesday, December 4, 2002  
Buckeye Community Center  
201 W. Centre  
Buckeye, AZ 85326



Thursday, December 5, 2002  
Agua Fria Union High School  
750 E. Riley Dr.  
Avondale, AZ 85323



Tuesday, December 10, 2002  
Estrella Mountain Church  
10485 S. Estrella Pkwy.  
Goodyear, AZ 85338



## Your Input

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County is preparing a Watercourse Master Plan for your area. The plan will be a joint effort between the District, the City of Avondale, Town of Buckeye, and the City of Goodyear.

It is important that the community get involved in the process. This project is strongly supported by the Board of Supervisors and has also gained a great amount of support from local municipalities, federal and state agencies, jurisdictions, and critical stakeholders.

The study team is also extremely focused on gaining the support of area residents. Area residents have valuable experience and knowledge that could significantly influence the project's success. We invite and encourage your support of this study. Please stay involved in the process by attending one of our public meetings, visiting our web site, talking to the study team about questions and concerns, and sharing your flooding photos.



Public Information Office  
Flood Control District of  
Maricopa County  
2801 West Durango Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85009



# El Rio Watercourse Master Plan

Upcoming Public Meetings - December 4, 5 & 10  
Details Inside



## Project Scope

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County (District) is preparing a Watercourse Master Plan (WCMP) to maintain and enhance the natural functions of the Gila River through responsible flood control measures. The plan will be a joint effort between the District, the City of Avondale, Town of Buckeye, and the City of Goodyear.

## What Is a Watercourse Master Plan?

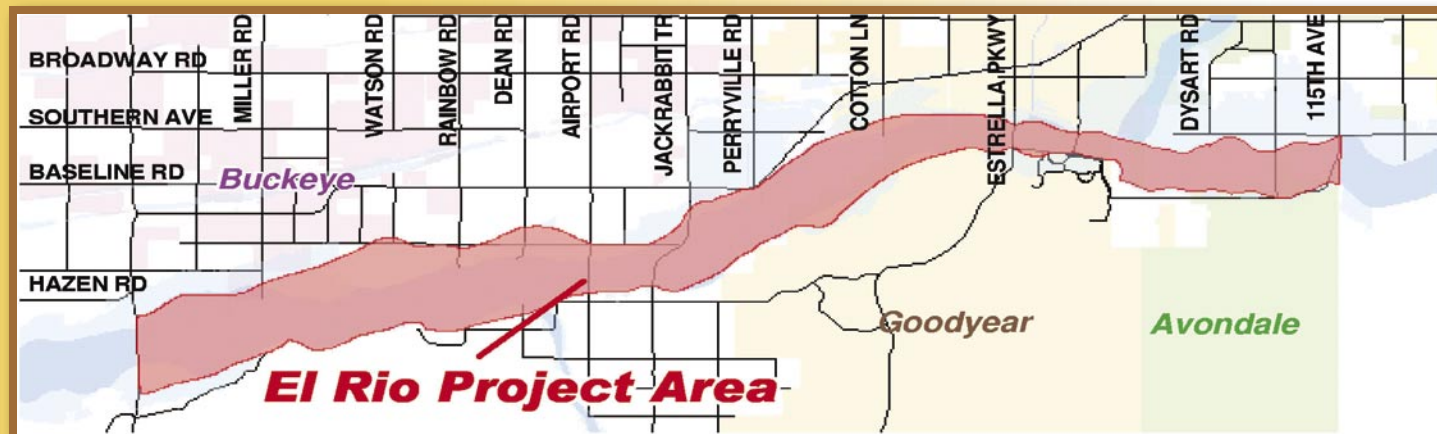
A watercourse master plan examines the overall effects of both existing and future development in a floodplain area. The plan also establishes technical criteria for future development in an effort to minimize potential flood damages.

## The El Río WCMP will:

- Control the adverse impacts of future land development on drainage and flooding conditions.
- Provide flood protection to the residents in a rapidly growing area.
- Develop and identify both structural and non-structural flood control alternatives.
- Identify potential multiple-use and recreational facilities to complement and enhance flood control measures.

## Study Area

The study area will cover a 17.5 mile reach of the Gila River from the Agua Fria River Westward to the SR 85 Bridge.



## Study Schedule

The study will be completed by Fall 2004.

The first and second phases of the project include the collection of data and the identification of any known flooding hazards. This also includes the research of historical photographs, historical surveys, cultural resources, environmental surveys, recreational features, scenic resources, current land use, land use plans, geomorphic data, and drainage reports, among other items.

The third phase includes the formulation of both structural and non-structural alternatives. These alternatives will be compared and critically evaluated in order to select a recommended alternative.

During the final phase, the recommended alternative will be refined. This alternative may suggest a combination of structural and non-structural solutions. Cost-sharing opportunities with project partners will also be explored.

Each phase of the project will be coordinated to include multiple opportunities for public participation.

## Benefits of Project

The Gila River today is only a remnant of what it was 40 years ago due to a number of environmental issues. While providing flood protection to residents, commerce, and agriculture is the primary goal of the project, the public benefit will include the restoration of a valuable natural resource.

The District's goal is to provide a flood protection strategy that preserves the cultural and archaeological heritage of the river that is consistent with a long-term multi-use vision for the river corridor.

This resource could benefit and serve the public in the following ways:

- As a flood control facility - Structural and non-structural alternatives will minimize potential flooding.
- As a model of environmental restoration - El Río proposes the possibility of a continuously flowing river through the selective management of Salt Cedar trees and the reintroduction of native species to the area such as cottonwood and willow trees.
- As a water quality enhancement source - The inclusion of wetlands and open flow channels would assist in this effort.
- As a multi-use facility - Communities along the river could integrate recreational facilities and trails along the Gila River.
- As an educational tool - Interpretive hiking trails and riparian educational centers could be placed along the banks.
- As an economic engine - It is believed that this project could significantly impact the economic development of the area, raising the value of homes and attracting high quality development and jobs.

## How Could This Study Affect You?

The outcome of the El Río WCMP will outline specific recommendations relative to floodplain management strategies, recreational opportunities, and habitat preservation in the project area. This could affect you in a number of ways:

1. Any drainage and flood control structures recommended in the plan will be considered for the District's Capital Improvement Program. The end result could be the construction of new flood control facilities - such as levees or other structures.
2. The guidelines and standards for drainage and floodplain management developed as part of the plan will guide future development adjacent to the river.
3. The District's vision of the El Río WCMP is to not only enhance public safety with flood control measures, but to assist in restoring as much of the 17.5 mile stretch of the Gila River as possible. This will ultimately offer residents educational and recreational opportunities as well as provide a unique natural resource for future generations.

## For More Information Contact:

Doug Williams  
Regional Planning Manager  
602-506-8743  
daw@mail.maricopa.gov

Melissa Lempke  
Public Involvement Coordinator  
602-506-0612  
mgl@mail.maricopa.gov

For regular updates on the El Río WCMP, visit the Flood Control District Web site at [www.fcd.maricopa.gov](http://www.fcd.maricopa.gov).

